



Interior Design Coalition of Nebraska

IDCN Newsletter

Our Mission: To ensure the Health, Safety and Welfare of the public through the establishment of a legal definition of the Interior Design profession, standards, competency and the promotion of public awareness.

IDCN in Action

The Interior Design Coalition of Nebraska is a collaborative effort by interior designers in Nebraska to pass legislation for a Title Act with voluntary certification for interior designers. Membership is individual; and membership dues specifically support legislative expenses incurred in the efforts to pass this legislation. Notwithstanding concurrent membership in either/both organizations of ASID and IIDA, Coalition members strongly believe in the promotion of professionalism and standards for all interior designers in Nebraska through legislation.

The purpose of this newsletter is to bring you the latest news on the legislative front in Nebraska and to report on the efforts of the Interior Design Coalition of Nebraska.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY UPDATE

STATUS

After many meetings with many interested senators, Senator Rogert offered to be our bill introducer. On January 9th, Senator Rogert introduced LB748 – the Interior Designers Certification Act. Senator Rogert is a member of the Government, Military and Veteran’s Affairs Committee – the committee who conducted our interim hearing in October and where the bill was referred to on January 11th. Senator Rogert was also elected Vice-Chair of the committee this week. We are very excited that he has introduced our bill so early in the session and enthusiastically supports the coalition and our efforts.

MEETING WITH E&A BOARD

Senator Rogert, Scott Berryman, Doris Buell and Jessica Doolittle met with the Engineers and Architects Board on January 11. The purpose of that meeting was to try to garner their support for the bill. Although we didn’t get their support, they did vote to remain neutral. With that being said, we need to mobilize very quickly to get as much support from the architecture and design community as well as our clients.

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GRASSROOTS

The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee has scheduled a hearing for LB748 on Friday, February 1, 2008. IDCN has coordinated a team of academic and design professionals who will testify in support of the **INTERIOR DESIGNERS CERTIFICATION ACT**. At some point after the hearing, the committee will vote on whether to advance the bill to the floor of the unicameral for debate. The **INTERIOR DESIGNERS CERTIFICATION ACT** most likely will be attached to another bill as it advances to the floor for debate, so it will no longer be referred to as LB748 at that point. As the bill moves to the floor for debate, the coalition will go in to high gear and ask once again for your support. We will notify you via e-mail that it is time to e-mail or call your Senator. It will be important that all your communications to the Senator refer to the **INTERIOR DESIGNERS CERTIFICATION ACT**.

We will ask you to help in the following ways:

1. **CALL YOUR SENATOR.** A personalized phone call is the most effective way to contact your Senator. You can use one of the attached letters to help with your conversation. Remember to personalize the conversation and hit on the bill highlights (noted below).
2. **WRITE YOUR SENATOR.** Because the communications will be timely (to coordinate with the floor debate) it is suggested that you e-mail them to your Senator. You can personalize one of the contact letters and mail it to your Senator. Sample letters on are posted to the website – use the link below or click on "Email Your Legislator" on the home page at www.idcnebraska.org. It is very important that you use the form letters we have provided **only as a guide**. Form letters can hurt our effort as it appears to be junk mail that must be opened, stamped, sorted and filed by the legislative staff. Once it becomes clear our members are using form letters, no one will read them anymore. It is only a sample that must be changed. Please use your firm or personal letterhead. **Please individualize it**. The main points should remain the same, but phrased in a different way and illustrated through example how the legislation impacts the letter writer. The highlights of the bill and our common themes are:

- It is a voluntary registry
- Interior designers affect the health, safety and welfare of the public (illustrate this point)
- Legislation will require continuing education
- Legislation will provide a common code of ethics for interior designers
- Reciprocity – if you hold a license in another state you will be granted reciprocity in Nebraska and if we pass this legislation we will be able to obtain reciprocity in other states based on their statutes. Many of you do business in other states, and this will be a great advantage the economic development in our state.

If you do not know who your senator is, you can go to the Unicameral website – www.NebraskaLegislature.gov - click on Senators and then click on Find Your Senator.

Please encourage anyone you know who supports our effort to do the same. A mere 10 letters to one senator is very impressive. So, the more we can get, the better. Please consider anyone who can relate a real life example of how an interior designer has had an impact on their environment. If you are a student, you and parents have a strong impact because you chose a state institution for your education; and senators will be thinking about retaining students in the state. If you have a great project in other parts of the state, have a willing client contact their senator.

THE BILL

For a copy of the bill please go to our website, www.idcnebraska.org or look on the Nebraska legislature's website: <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/web/public/home> and in the Quick Search on the right hand side, type in LB748.

INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Why should someone become a member of the Interior Design Coalition of Nebraska? Anyone who wants to take the interior design profession in the state of Nebraska to a new level should consider becoming a member. There are many levels to the yearly dues, so you can become a member at whatever level works for you. And if you cannot contribute much money, we can always use your sweat equity. Below are a few benefits to becoming a member.

- Monthly newsletter
- Invitations to special events
- Supporting the development of Interior Design as a profession in the state of Nebraska

Log onto the website, www.idcnebraska.org, and renew your membership for 2008 or join now!

SUPPORTERS / SPONSORS

We are constantly looking for supporters – we need you and members of the community to support interior design title legislation via contact with your senators. We also need monetary support due to the on-going costs of our lobbying efforts and Senator and supporter outreach. Log onto www.idcnebraska.org to get additional information on corporate sponsorship. As a general guideline, following are the levels and benefits of corporate support:

Platinum Corporate Sponsor	\$1000+	Includes Logo/Name on Website, Newsletter & all other marketing material
Gold Corporate Sponsor	\$500-\$999	Includes Logo/Name on Website, and in Newsletter
Silver Corporate Sponsor	\$250-\$499	Includes Logo/Name on Newsletter
Bronze Corporate Sponsor	\$100-\$249	

EVENTS:

SENATOR BREAKFAST AND PROCLAMATION DAY - A Senator Breakfast was held on January 22, 2008 at the State Capitol. Twenty-eight senators and over thirty IDCN members, students and members of the design community attended the event. Members were able to discuss the highlights of the **INTERIOR DESIGNERS CERTIFICATION ACT** with the Senators while students presented current design projects and conversed with Senators and members about the building codes reviews they have completed on their projects. It was enlightening for Senators to see how interior design does impact the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Following the breakfast a Proclamation ceremony was held in the Warner Legislative Chamber. Governor Dave Heineman proclaimed the month of February, 2008 "Health, Safety and Welfare Month" on behalf of the Interior Design Coalition of Nebraska.



CENTERPOINTE REMODEL –UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, LINCOLN: Our gratitude goes out to the UNL interior design students and professional volunteers who have been working hard on the designs for the soon to be remodeled group therapy rooms at CenterPointe's Outpatient Services. This past month has found our students and professional volunteers very busy finalizing designs, soliciting materials and labor, and preparing for the remodeling which will begin at the start of February.

Due to student work loads and sourcing of materials and furniture, our original opening date has been extended. We now plan on celebrating the opening of the therapy rooms on Tuesday, February 19, 2008. Look for announcements in the near future.

For more information regarding the student fundraising event, check out "Makeover Fundraiser" at www.idcnebraska.org. Select **UNL Student Makeover** on the right hand side of the page under "Quick Links."

IDCN DESIGNER GARAGE SALE - Date and location to be announced: Our second annual designer garage sale will be held in late spring. This is a successful and fun project—we are expanding it this year. Watch for upcoming information.



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We're on the Web!
www.IDCNebraska.org



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The Designers

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